

1. **Introduction:** Friday (which began at sundown on Thursday) was a long tragic day that began with the celebration of the Passover meal with the disciples. After the meal, there was a time of prayer in Gethsemane.
 - While still in Gethsemane, Judas came with soldiers to identify Jesus.
 - Jesus was arrested, subjected to trials, given death sentence, was scourged, and then crucified until dead.
 - Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate's permission to take Jesus down from the cross and to bury His body Jesus in a tomb belonging to Joseph.
 - That task was barely finished before sundown when the Sabbath began.
 - Early in the morning of the day after the Sabbath (that is, Sunday), some of Jesus' women followers went to the tomb to complete the burial process that was begun but not finished before the Sabbath began.
2. **Mark 16:1:** *When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.*
 - The Sabbath ended at sundown on Saturday and Sunday evening began.
 - When the Sabbath ended at sundown, the bazaars opened again.
 - Then the women purchased spices so that they would be prepared to go to the tomb early in the morning to anoint Jesus body
3. **Mark 16:2-4:** *And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.*
 - Likely the women started out when it was still dark, but by the time they arrived at the tomb, the sun was risen.
 - The women had been at Calvary when Jesus died, were in Joseph's garden when He was buried, and now early in the morning on the first day of the week, they are once again on their way to the tomb.
 - As they walked to the tomb, they remembered the large stone that closed the entrance to the tomb. It was too large to roll away by themselves.
 - What could they do? The stones that sealed cave tombs were like large stone wheels (maybe weighing a ton) placed in a tilted slot.
 - When rolled down to close the tomb, it would take several men to roll it away to open the tomb. As the tomb came into sight, they saw the stone had been rolled away.
 - Matthew reports that an angel rolled the stone away from entrance to the tomb (Mt 28:2). Why? Jesus did not need it to be rolled away when He departed the tomb, but the women would.

- So, the angel rolled away the stone sealing the tomb for the women. By the time the women reached the tomb, the angel had gone inside.
 - The women entered the tomb and were surprised at what they found.
4. **Mark 16:5:** *And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.*
- The figure they see is most likely an angel.
 - Many Scripture passages reveal that angels appear to humans in human form and communicate in human language. The women entered the tomb and were alarmed by the figure they saw sitting on the right side.
 - They were expecting the body of Jesus, but they saw a living person.
5. **Mark 16:6-7:** *And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”*
- Mark, as usual, sticks to essentials. There is more detail in John 20.
 - Mark reports the angel said, don't be alarmed. His next remark implies rather than be frightened, rejoice! Jesus, who was crucified, has risen.
 - He is no longer in the tomb. The women could see for themselves that the place where they had laid Jesus was now empty.
 - Peter and the other disciples need to be told the good news.
 - The angel said to the women, tell them that Jesus will go before them to Galilee. There they will see Him, just as He told them.
 - The angel's message to Peter and the disciples shows forgiveness and love from Jesus to men who in the time of bitter trial had fled and left Him to face the end alone.
6. **Mark 16:8:** *And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*
- When the truth sinks in, the women will be filled with joy, but their first response is shock, fright, and bewilderedness. Their shocked mental state renders them speechless as they aimlessly fled the tomb.
 - As they recovered from their mental terror, they did as they had been told and ran to Peter to deliver the message entrusted to them.
 - Verses 9-20 do not appear in the earliest and most reliable documents.
 - There is strong evidence that the verses were written by a different author.
 - While there are many pro and con arguments about this issue, the argument that convinces me that the verses were not written by Mark is one based on the content of those verses when compared to Mark 16:1-8.

- In verse 16:7, the young man dressed in a white robe says to the women, “*go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.*”
 - The expectation produced by this verse is that any appearance of the Lord that is described in following verses will be those taking place in Galilee.
 - But what is contained in verses 9-20 is the very opposite. There is no mention of Galilee resulting in a break in the continuity of events.
7. **Mark 16:9-20:** *Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. ¹² After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.*
- The appearances cited took place in Judea. From John (20:1,2;11-18), Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene near the tomb.
 - From Luke (24:13-35), Jesus’ appearance to two men walking occurred not far from Jerusalem as they left Jerusalem on the way to Emmaus.
 - The only thing cited that can possibly have been connected to Galilee are verses 15-16. These two verses resemble Matthew 28:19 which records words of the resurrected Jesus spoken in Galilee (Matthew 28:16).
 - But Mark 16:15-16 doesn’t mention Galilee either.
 - Further, Mary Magdalene who has been mentioned in Mark 15:47 and 16:1 is introduced in verse 9, as if she had not yet been mentioned at all.
 - It seems Mark 16:9-20 was written later by another author. For the rest of the story, we turn to Matthew 28. It begins with the women at the tomb.
 - Details in each of the 4 gospels are reported from a different point of view.

- Among the women who gathered at the tomb on the morning of the first day of the week, Matthew mentions Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses.
 - Mark adds Salome (Mk 16:1). Luke adds Joanna and indicates there were others (Lk 24:10). John mentions only Mary Magdalene, but the phrase in verse Jn 20:2 saying, “we do not know” indicates there were others.
8. **Matthew 28:1-4:** *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.*
- The women were worried they would not be able to move the stone from the tomb’s entrance. As they neared the tomb, there was a great earthquake when an angel of the Lord came down and rolled away the stone.
 - At the request of the chief priests and Pharisees, Pilate had a seal placed on the stone to reveal if anyone opened the tomb. He told the leaders to send guards to make sure no one stole Jesus’ body and then claimed that He had risen as He said He would.
 - The appearance of the angel was like lightening and his garment white as snow. The astounding radiance of his countenance indicated he had come directly from heaven, the whiteness of his garment indicated holiness.
 - Understandably, the guards were frightened and apparently fell to the ground unconscious. After the ground stopped shaking, they aroused and went into the city to report what had happened.
9. **Matthew 28:5-8:** *But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*
- The guards were very frightened, but the angel says to the women that they have no reason to be frightened. Jesus is no longer in the tomb. He is risen and will meet them and the disciples in Galilee as He said.
 - What they need to do now is to rejoice and quickly go and tell the other disciples so they too can rejoice. They joyfully left the tomb and ran to tell the others though still fearful.